



## INSTITUTE FOR DIACONAL STUDIES ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

### Annual Candidacy Covenant

EACH YEAR DURING THE CANDIDACY PATH, individual candidates take an introspective look at themselves. They assess their spiritual lives in light of the expectations, and obligations, of the clerical state.

#### BASIC INSTITUTE FOR DIACONAL STUDIES (IDS) EXPECTATIONS:

- To engage in daily personal prayer and devotional life
- To live a lifestyle that incorporates and reflects gospel values and Catholic Christian teachings
- To live a chaste (and, potentially, celibate) lifestyle that incorporates Church teaching on Marriage and family life
- To be charitable in word and action and exemplary in providing a living example of humility
- To attend Eucharist daily, if possible, and special IDS liturgical celebrations
  
- To learn (in Aspirancy) and to pray daily during Candidacy the *Liturgy of the Hours*
- To employ ongoing spiritual direction monthly with an approved spiritual director and engage in honest dialogue and disclosure
- To regularly participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- To find moments of silence and solitude daily
- To learn (in Aspirancy) and incorporate into daily living the art of *Lectio Divina*
  
- To participate fully in the IDS annual retreat and pursue personal days of reflection
- To participate fully in all formation events, retreats, rites, liturgies and Mentor Groups (Aspirants) or Theological Reflection Groups (Candidates)
- To fulfill the requirements/timeline for each year's field education experience or internship
- To be present and generous in service to the University of Saint Mary of the Lake (USML) community, personal/sponsoring parish, workplace and IDS
- To attend classes attentively, fulfill all requirements and maintain a passing grade
  
- To maintain a personal intellectual life as well as an interior spiritual life
- To inform the IDS Associate Director of absence from classes
- To inform the IDS Director of prolonged absences from the program
- To be open and responsive to IDS evaluations and attentive to IDS processes for self-improvement
- To be attentive to authentic human needs and self-improvement
- To follow all IDS policies as prescribed in the program handbook
  
- To follow USML internet policy (no personal or political email)
- To participate in feedback and endorsement processes
- To adhere to all procedures with regard to use of buildings (all sites)
- To take appropriate steps to maintain a healthy lifestyle and balance between God, family, work and ministry
- To understand and become a Catholic Christian Steward of time, talent and treasure

